

Message Text

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FOR DALLEY

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TAGS: SHUM
SUBJECT: WORLD CONFERENCE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL
DISCRIMINATION, GENEVA, AUGUST 14-25, 1978 - MEETING WITH
SYG NARASIMAHN

1. MISOFF MET WITH NARASIMAHN, SECRETARY GENERAL OF
SUBJECT CONFERENCE, TO GET HIS REACTION AND ASSESSMENT
OF THE FINAL DAYS OF THE SESSION.
2. NARASIMAHN'S FIRST COMMENT WAS QUOTE EVERYBODY LOST
OUT. END QUOTE. BOTH THE AFRICANS AND THE WEST WERE
INFLEXIBLE FROM HIS POINT OF VIEW. THE AFRICANS, WHO HAVE
A GENUINE FEAR ABOUT THE ISRAEL/SOUTH AFRICA CONNECTION
WERE RIGID ABOUT THE USE OF THE TERM ZIONISM IN THE DRAFT
DECLARATION AND COULD NOT BE PERSUADED TO DELETE IT FROM
THE DOCUMENT. ON THE OTHER SIDE THE WEST WOULD NOT
NEGOTIATE WITH THE AFRICANS AS LONG AS THERE WAS A MENTION
OF ISRAEL AND PALESTINE IN ANY OF THE CONFERENCE PAPERS.

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3. INTRODUCTION OF THE PALESTINE ISSUE AND THE ISRAEL/
SOUTH AFRICA LINK WERE INEVITABLE AT A WORLD CONFERENCE ON
RACISM IN NARASIMAHN'S OPINION. HE FELT THAT THE WEST
SHOULD HAVE ANTICIPATED THIS PROBLEM AND ARRIVED AT THE
SESSION PREPARED FOR LONG NEGOTIATING SESSIONS. INSTEAD
THE TERMINOLOGY DIVIDED THE TWO GROUPS AND NEGOTIATION
BECAME IMPOSSIBLE.

4. EVEN THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES ATTEMPTED TO SAVE THE SITUATION, BUT WERE FRUSTRATED IN THEIR EFFORTS BY A RULE BOOK CHAIRMAN. UNHAPPY WITH THE PROSPECT OF A WESTERN WALK OUT, THE SOCIALISTS' SOLUTION WAS TO REPLACE THE PHRASE "ZIONIST STATE" WITH THE PHRASE "ZIONIST RULING CIRCLES IN ISRAEL." THE CHAIRMAN WOULD NOT DISCUSS THE AMENDMENT SINCE HE HAD CLOSED DISCUSSION ON THE ISSUE.

5. AS FOR THE SECRETARIAT, ITS ONLY ROLE WAS TO PROVIDE A DRAFT PLAN OF ACTION AND DECLARATION, WHICH IT DID. NARASIMAHN FELT THE TEXTS WERE BALANCED BUT AS IT TURNED OUT THEY WERE UNSATISFACTORY TO BOTH SIDES.

6. AT ONE POINT DURING THE SESSION, NARASIMAHN SAID HE THOUGHT OF CALLING FOR A SECRET VOTE, BUT DISCARDED THE IDEA REALIZING HE MIGHT BE KILLED AT THE MENTION OF SUCH A PROPOSAL. HE OPINED THAT FAR FEWER DELS WOULD HAVE SUPPORTED THE OBJECTIONABLE LANGUAGE IN A SECRET BALLOT.

7. THE SYG ALSO SAID HE CONSIDERED MAKING THE PLAN OF ACTION THE PRIMARY CONFERENCE DOCUMENT WITH THE DECLARATION AS AN ANNEX OR ATTACHMENT OF SOME KIND BUT THEN DISCOVERED THAT THE PLAN MENTIONED PALESTINE AND THE WEST WOULD HAVE REJECTED THE MOVE.

8. NARASIMAHN LOOKED AT THE CONFERENCE AS A DEBATING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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VICTORY FOR THE AFRICANS. BUT A DEBATING VICTORY, FROM HIS POINT OF VIEW, MEANS NOTHING BECAUSE THE WEST DID NOT JOIN THE AFRICANS IN A CONSENSUS.

9. NARASIMAHN SAID THE U.AGM WAS JUSTIFIED IN NOT PARTICIPATING IN THE CONFERENCE BECAUSE IT WOULD HAVE HAD TO WALK OUT WITH OTHER WESTERN MEMBERS.

10. AS FOR THE THIRD COMMITTEE IN THE UPCOMING UNGA, IT WAS THE SYG'S BELIEF THAT THE VARIOUS GROUPINGS WILL AGAIN SURFACE AND THE AFRICANS WILL AGAIN WIN BECAUSE THEY HAVE THE VOTES. NARASIMAHN EXPRESSED SOME DISGUST THAT THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION WAS POISONING ALL UN ACTIVITIES. HE REFERRED TO THE "ARTIFICIAL VOTES" WHICH ARE COLLECTED ON ALMOST ANY ISSUE BECAUSE THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM IS INJECTED. THESE ARE VOTES WITHOUT INTEGRITY.

11. NARASIMAHN CONCLUDED MEETING BY SAYING HE WAS CONVINCED THAT HE NO LONGER HAD A PLACE IN THE U.N. HE WAS HAPPY TO BE RETIRING (AUGUST 31). UPON HIS RETIREMENT HE WILL WRITE ABOUT WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE WORLD ORGANIZATION. VANDEN HEUVEL

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